

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph that was added by the amendment filed March 7, 2006 (i.e., the new paragraph added after the paragraph that ends on page 9, line 19) with the following amended paragraph:

The processing nodes may be interconnected by the interconnection system. The interconnection system may detect an attempted inter-node communication and block the attempted inter-node communication. The interconnection system may be communicatively linked with an entity 18 external to the interconnection system ~~(e.g., a session manager or a soft switch)~~. The external entity 18 may be a session manager or a soft switch. ~~This~~ The external entity 18 may include access-control logic 19 (e.g., logic that indicates allowed inter-node communication between application components). The external entity 18 may provision an interconnection system on demand. For instance, if the interconnect switch 14 signals to the external entity 18 in response to an attempted communication, the external entity 18 could responsively send the access-control logic 19 to the interconnect switch 14, to be applied.

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Figure 2. This sheet, which includes Figures 1-2, replaces the original sheet including Figures 1-2. In Figure 2, elements identified by labels 18 and 19 have been added along with an arrow connecting elements identified by labels 14 and 18.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet